

**Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action * Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund * Friends of the Earth
Natural Resources Defense Council * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center**

July 23, 2013

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and online activists, we urge you to oppose H.R. 1582, sponsored by Rep. Cassidy. This bill should be called the Blocking Public Health Protections Act as it eliminates federal responsibility to protect the public's health and safety while granting the Department of Energy authority to veto many Environmental Protection Agency standards.

In his opening statements during the Energy and Commerce Committee mark-up on H.R. 1582, Chairman Whitfield acknowledged that this bill was designed to target health safeguards like EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics standards; those standards alone will prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks *every year* once implemented. Laws like the Mercury and Air Toxics standards protect us from neurotoxins, carcinogens, smog and soot pollution, just to name a few.

And H.R. 1582 will block standards that protect the health of children across the country. Last week during the Committee mark-up, Republicans even voted against an amendment that would protect children from premature death, cancer, and asthma attacks.

Finally, H.R. 1582 would simply do away with many environmental, health and safety considerations. It would repeal EPA's authority to finalize public health standards for clean air and clean water, transferring necessary authority to the Department of Energy – a different agency with a different mission. EPA, the agency tasked with protecting our health and environment, should not be prevented from doing so. H.R. 1582 would allow vital health and environmental safeguards to be nullified, all while upending the missions of two major federal agencies.

H.R. 1582 is a transparent effort to tear down the system of health and environmental protections that has cleaned our nation's air and water and saved lives for decades. We urge you to oppose.

Sincerely,

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